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through anteriorly located oblique bore **140** located on spacer bearing **70** (having a planar upper bearing surface), until the pointed locating end appears visible through oblique aperture **110**. At this point, arcuate end **150** will be flush against the corner defined by the anterior aspect and sidewall **105**, the second cantilevered snap-fit arrangement having been engaged, thereby securing the spacer bearing **70** onto tibial component **10**. This also represents a fixed bearing arrangement or fixed prosthetic assembly.

If it is apparent intra-operatively that a mobile spacer bearing arrangement would be more suitable to the subject's needs, the spacer bearing **70** having a concave upper bearing surface is selected is merely placed onto tibial plate **15** in mating engagement with tibial plate **15**. The use of spacer bearing attachment means is avoided and no limitation in the movement of the spacer bearing **70** relative to the tibial plate **15** will result. This arrangement thus represents a mobile bearing prosthetic assembly.

It will yet further be appreciated that the invention extends to the use of a tibial component **10** as herein described, together with a femoral component defining a femoral articular bearing surface and a spacer bearing as herein described disposed therebetween, the femoral component further including an elliptical body having an anterior member and a posterior member, and an internal femoral attachment surface, the femoral articular bearing surface and the internal femoral attachment surface having a substantially uniform cross-sectional curvature at any point along the length of the anterior member, thereby providing an increased radius of the internal femoral attachment surface and an increased cross sectional line of fixation to bony tissue, the resurfacing of chondral deficient surface areas in knee joints.

A person skilled in the art will readily appreciate that a physician would be able to replace spacer bearing **70** as and when the occasion calls for same, such as when the spacer bearing is worn or damaged, without disturbing the tibial component or the femoral component. Also, given the relative ease of insertion of the spacer bearing into the existing prosthesis, patient exposure is minimized. Furthermore, the spacer bearing will assume the identity of a readily replaceable part of the prosthesis, thereby prolonging the life of existing prosthetic devices, and in particular those prosthetic assemblies associated with UKA procedures.

Although certain forms of the invention only have been described herein, it will be understood by any person skilled in the art that other modifications or variations of the invention are possible. For instance, the spacer bearing attachment means need not be limited to the two examples described herein, and can embody any alternative and suitable spacer bearing attachment means that achieves the purpose of fixing the spacer bearing **70** to the tibial component **10**. Additionally, preference is given to the use of the tibial component **10**, together with a femoral component that defines a uniradial curvature. A femoral component having a poly-radial curvature may be substituted for use, where suitable. Such modifications and/or variations are therefore to be considered as falling within the spirit and scope of the present invention as herein described.

The invention claimed is:

1. A tibial component, suitable for use in an orthopedic prosthesis, which prosthesis includes a femoral component and a spacer bearing, wherein the tibial component is shaped to be used in at least one of the medial and lateral compartments of a knee, the tibial component comprising:

a planar tibial plate having an upper bearing surface and a lower bone connecting surface, the tibial plate being

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adapted to interchangeably in situ receive anteriorly-loaded spacer bearings for either mobile- or fixed-bearing prosthetic assemblies;

the tibial plate further having at least one anteriorly located spacer bearing attachment means for removably securing the spacer bearing to the tibial plate; and

wherein the interchangeability of the spacer bearing between mobile and fixed assemblies is immediate or subsequent to a revision procedure, without disturbing bone connecting surfaces of the tibial component.

2. The tibial component as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spacer bearing is removably secured to the tibial component thereby preventing movement of the spacer bearing relative to the tibial component.

3. The tibial component as claimed in claim 2, wherein the movement of the spacer bearing is rotational movement, translational movement, or a combination of both rotational and translational movement.

4. The tibial component as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spacer bearing includes a concave surface for receiving the femoral component.

5. The tibial component as claimed in claim 4, wherein the femoral component is brought to bear upon the concave surface of the spacer bearing, for use in a mobile spacer bearing prosthetic assembly.

6. The tibial component as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spacer bearing includes a planar surface for receiving the femoral component.

7. The tibial component as claimed in claim 6, wherein the femoral component is brought to bear upon the planar surface of the spacer bearing, for use in a fixed spacer bearing prosthetic assembly.

8. The tibial component as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tibial plate includes an orthogonal flange located on an aspect of the tibial plate that is closest to the centerline of the knee, the orthogonal flange having an annular or obliquely disposed aperture located thereon.

9. The tibial component as claimed in claim 8, wherein the attachment means is a primary attachment in the form of a screw and screw-threaded bore for locating and releasably securing the spacer bearing onto the orthogonal flange and ultimately onto the tibial plate.

10. The tibial component as claimed in claim 9, wherein the primary attachment is in the form of a cantilevered pin having an elongate cylinder and an arcuate end thereon, defining a cantilevered snap-fit arrangement for releasably securing the spacer bearing onto the orthogonal flange and ultimately onto the tibial plate.

11. The tibial component as claimed in claim 9, wherein the primary attachment is complemented by a secondary attachment means, which secondary attachment means is collectively defined by a locating member, a rim recess, a gripping member and a holder.

12. The tibial component as claimed in claim 11, wherein the locating member and a gripping member are each located on the spacer bearing.

13. The tibial component as claimed in claim 12, wherein the gripping member is located anteriorly on the spacer bearing and is for frictional engagement with a complementarily shaped holder located on the tibial plate.

14. The tibial component as claimed in claim 13, wherein the spacer bearing may include a concave surface thereon, or alternatively and a planar surface thereon, further alternatively a combination of planar and concave surfaces located thereon on opposite sides of the spacer bearing.

15. The tibial component as claimed in claim 13, wherein the femoral component includes an elliptical body having an